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Animal Science e-Newsletter

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2013

## Animal Science E-Newsletter, August 2013

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences

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University of Arkansas  
Dale Bumper's College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences  
**Department of Animal Science**  
**E-Newsletter**

## Equine Program

All Equine news can be found on the [Equine Newsline](#).

### Equine Program Staff Visits Peru

Kathi Jogan, Department of Animal Science Equine Program staff and barn manager, visited Peru to represent the University of Arkansas, Bumpers College and the Department of the Animal Science. This was a huge step towards representing the Department on an international scale. Stay tuned for the next e-news to learn the details!

## Research Highlight

### Department of Animal Science Uses HeatWatch Technology to Evaluate Cattle

If you've driven on Deane Street in Fayetteville, Ark., recently, you may have seen these cows with a strange looking orange pad on their backs. If you've wondered what in the world those are, here is the answer. The study is supported by the University Of Arkansas System Division Of Agriculture.

To read more of this article, [click here](#).

## American Society of Animal Science (ASAS)

### ASAS Joint Annual Meeting (JAM)

The University of Arkansas has been heavily involved with the American Society of Animal Science this year. Not only have faculty and graduate students represented the U of A on a national scale but they also represented the UA department of animal science and UA System Division of Agriculture at the ASAS Joint Annual Meeting held July 8-12 in Indianapolis.

To read more of this article, [click here](#).

## Guest Blog

### Staff Contributes a Guest Blog Post to "I Am Agriculture Proud"



Janeal Yancey, a staff member at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, Bumpers College and Department of Animal Science contributed a blog post to the popular ag-related blog, "Agriculture Proud". This has contributed to the movement of educating the world about agriculture through social media. The Department is proud that Janeal Yancey has been a part of that movement.

To read more of this article, [click here](#).

## Bumper's College Career Fair

The University of Arkansas Agricultural Career Fair: Advancing Food, Family, Business and the Environment offers cost-effective and time-efficient recruiting for full-time, part-time or internship positions. This fair is for all **Bumpers College Students** who are seeking employment opportunities.

To read more of this article, [click here](#).



479-575-3195

[ansc@uark.edu](mailto:ansc@uark.edu)

<http://animalscience.uark.edu>

## Department of Animal Science Uses HeatWatch Technology To Evaluate Cattle



If you've driven on Deane Street in Fayetteville, Ark., recently, you may have seen these cows with a strange looking orange pad on their backs. If you've wondered what in the world those are, here is the answer. The study is supported by the University Of Arkansas System Division Of Agriculture.

Department of Animal Science graduate student Tom Devine has been conducting research on growth implants in cattle and their possible effects on reproduction. Dr. Rick Rorie is one of the professors in the Department who is overseeing Devine's research. Rorie has shed light on this most recent phase of the study.

According to previous research Rorie has conducted, "The HeatWatch system is an automated mount monitoring system. It consists of individual mount detectors that transmit data via radio signal to a receiver. Then, using HeatWatch software, we can access the mount data with a computer. This software can determine if a cow is in estrus, or in heat, and generate reports indicating specific times, how often and how long the cow was mounted. After the animal meets the minimum criteria for estrus, the first mount is identified as the onset of estrus. This technology helps us maximize conception rates for research studies like Tom's."

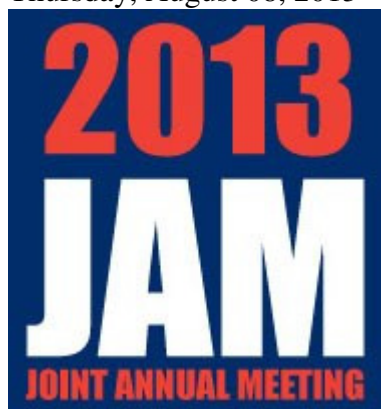
After individual cows were detected in estrus, they were artificially inseminated (AI) at a time to provide the best possible chance of conception. The HeatWatch detectors were left on the cows after AI to gather extra data. A bull was placed with the herd to breed cows that did not conceive from AI, or those that had not been detected to be in estrus.

This phase of the research is being analyzed to determine the effects of three different growth implants on the cow's reproductive systems. There is currently limited research that exists on the topic. Devine hopes that this study can help cattle producers increase the value of their livestock as well as know the reproductive effects the implants will have on their herd.



## **Animal Science Department Participates in the American Society of Animal Science Joint Annual Meeting**

Thursday, August 08, 2013



The University of Arkansas has been heavily involved with the American Society of Animal Science this year. Not only have faculty and graduate students represented the U of A on a national scale but they also represented the U of A department of animal science and UA System Division of Agriculture at the ASAS Joint Annual Meeting held July 8-12 in Indianapolis.

The annual meeting offers a diverse scientific program offering more than 2,200 oral and poster presentations showcasing the scientific work of more than 3,000 scientists. In addition to the variety of scientific programming, students were able to participate in valuable student competitions while enjoying a full itinerary of social activities.

Angie Mays, a previous ASAS national graduate director and alumna from the U of A department of animal science, helped organize activities for the event. Mays helped to plan the Undergraduate Lunch and Learn, Graduate Student Lunch and Learn, Graduate Student Symposium and ASAS Student Mixer. At both Lunch and Learn events, students got first-hand advice from professionals in the animal sciences. These formal and informal networking opportunities allow attendees interaction with over 1,500 organizations each year at the Joint Annual Meeting.

"JAM is a great place for Animal Science faculty to present their recent research findings, network with colleagues, and establish new collaborative relationships with the industry and other university faculty," said Michael Looper, head of the animal science department. "This year, the Bumpers College Department of Animal Science and Division of Agriculture were well represented at JAM. Numerous departmental faculty and graduate students were engaged in learning novel research findings from around the globe."

Multiple U of A professors contributed lectures and discussions at this year's JAM. Shane Gadberry led a session on "Production, Management and the Environment," including information about cattle health and meat quality. Elizabeth Rumley also gave a talk titled "Developing a curriculum addressing legal issues in animal agriculture." The goal was to provide legal information that would be useful for scientists and producers. There were also several posters and oral presentations by other U of A faculty and students that are available by searching the [JAM program PDF](#).

Mays recently passed the torch to current U of A graduate student Brandon Smith as the ASAS national graduate director. He will be assisting Beth Kegley on the ASAS board of directors and will take over Mays' previous responsibilities at next year's JAM.

"The ASAS Board of Directors was instrumental in putting together JAM this year," said Madeline McCurry-Schmidt, scientific communications associate for ASAS. "Dr. Beth Kegley is very active as a director-at-large for ASAS, and will be part of the team planning next year's JAM."

Kids of the Ag college.



The AgChat Banditas have taken over!

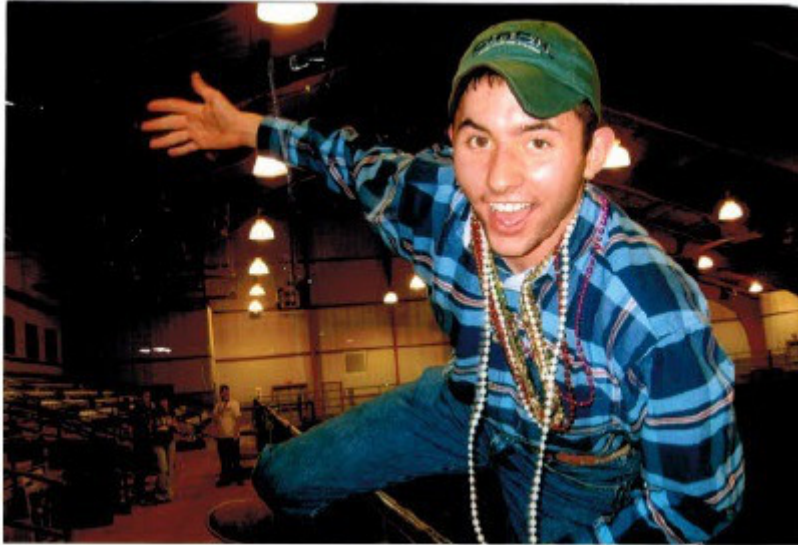


*Bandita Janeal Yancey is a mom and a meat scientist living in Arkansas. She spends her days attempting to keep up with students and research at the University of Arkansas.*



*She spends her 'free time' attempting to keep up with her 4-year old daughter, Vallie. She tries to help other moms know more about meat in her blog [Mom at the Meat Counter](#).*

As most of you probably know, Ryan is working on a Master's degree in Animal Reproduction. What many may not know, is that I knew Ryan when he was a freshman and sophomore in college. You think he's skinny now, you should have seen him at 19. I found a few pictures of him from those days that I thought I'd share.



I work for the [University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture](#). I do research to help farmers, ranchers, and meat companies improve their products. What I LOVE to do is educate. I've been on a college campus since the fall of 1996. I like to tell people I'm a 16-year senior. I advise the Block and Bridle Club, which is the club for kids in [Animal Science](#). That's where I met Ryan. I love working with college kids, especially those in the Ag College.



Here we are at a cattle show hosted by the Block and Bridle Club. Ryan is 5th from the left. I'm on the far right.

Farm kids are a special bunch, and most of the time, when they move to a college town, they've moved to the most populated place they've ever lived. Manhattan, KS (population 50,000) is a bustling metropolis in their eyes.

Personally, I moved from my home town (pop. 1063) to a 12-story dorm at Texas Tech in Lubbock, TX. There were more kids on my FLOOR that there were in my graduating class in high school. Almost twice as many. There were more kids in the dorm than in my whole home town. I sat in seat 182 in Chemistry class, there were more kids in that class than in my whole high school. My senior year in high school, there were 2 people in my Calculus class and 3 in Physics. Needless to say, I was a little overwhelmed those first few weeks of college. Most farm kids that go to college have been in my boots.

Luckily, most of us farm kids find each other in the College of Agriculture. Several of us knew each other through FFA and 4H in high school, we have similar interests and backgrounds, so it makes sense that we all stick together in college. Even on college campuses of 50,000 students, the Ag College is like a small town. Everyone knows one another.



That's Ryan in the blue shirt on the top row. I'm not sure what he's doing.

Ryan and I were part of a special population of college kids who may have a very different college experience than the students across campus in the Business School or the College of Arts and Sciences.

- We were the kids who got dirty looks from other kids in class on days we smelled like a cow, a sheep, a hog, or a horse. Sometimes you had to go straight to class from work or from an Animal Science lab.
- We were the kids who had to explain to our professors that we needed to miss class for harvest, state fair, judging contests, or calving season.
- We were the kids whose clubs had fundraisers like ham or pecan sales and activities like cattle shows, working at the State Fair, trail rides, or rodeos.
- We were the kids who didn't get cold on winter days because we wore our Carhart bibs and chore boots to class. (One of Ryan's friends here at Arkansas had a bright pink pair.)
- We were the kids whose class field trips included feed lots, slaughter houses, vet clinics, and dairies.
- In class, we learned to shear sheep, handle newborn piglets, identify poisonous plants and the parts of the reproductive tract, make cows urinate, grade meat, and make sausage.
- We were the kids who slept through class because we were up all night, not partying, but on all-night lamb watch for sheep production class. (Bottle lambs have been known to attend class, too).
- We were the kids who passed the time between classes roping a dummy.



This is a roping dummy some of our students made this semester. Yes, it's made from a bicycle handle.

- Our work-study jobs may have consisted of washing dishes in a lab one day, working cattle at the farm the next day, and baling hay on summer days.
- We were the kids who got up at 5 am to feed before showering and getting dressed for class.
- We were the kids who had to buy school supplies like knives for cutting meat, AI gloves for reaching in...places you wouldn't want to reach without a glove, steel-toed boots, or hairnets.
- We were the kids who had to show up to class with black eyes or missing teeth from a run-in with cow, sheep, or horse.
- Some of us had to go home every weekend to help on the farm. Aging parents and family situations meant that extra hands were really needed. The needs of the farm came before extracurricular activities.

Don't think we had it easy in class, either. Students in Animal Science are required to take the same Chemistry and Biology classes that Pre-med and Biology programs require. Think about it, students who study human anatomy and physiology are only required to understand one species, whereas those who study Animal Science are required to understand three or four species, even more for those headed to vet school.

Students in Agriculture Communications have to take classes in Marketing and Journalism. Some of our other Banditas have blogged about the diversity of US agriculture. Students in the College of Agriculture are not only required to know and understand that diversity, but they are also trained to improve on it and to communicate about it with non-ag folks.

Ryan has blogged about the [importance of ag education](#). Ag kids understand that a heavy burden is placed on their shoulders. They are required to figure out how to feed a growing population with a shrinking set of resources and a shrinking public understanding of what they do. **They continue to sign up for the task.**



Students showing lambs in a club competition

Some farm kids leave the farm for college and never go back. Our new football coach at Arkansas was raised on a hog farm! Go Hogs! Several become doctors or lawyers. I know farm kids that are legislators and lobbyists. Several go to work in the food industry. Other farm kids go to college and take the knowledge and skills they learned back home to improve their family farms.

Some farm kids end up in **graduate school**. Ryan and I both chose that route (that's why I'm a 16-year senior). Graduate school in Animal Science is a whole new set of challenges. Graduate students are usually kids who have moved away from their college buddies and the comforts and familiarities of their home state. I went through Mexican food withdrawals when I moved to Kansas.





Kids on a field trip to a wool processor. They made yarn, blankets, and sweaters.

Graduate classes are great because they are more focused on your interests, but, with that focus, comes an intensity that you've never experienced before. The study skills and discipline that earned A's and B's in undergrad won't even get passing grades in graduate school.

Then, there is the research. Research is the most exciting, challenging, frightening, and time-consuming part of graduate school. It can be lots of fun. Animal Science graduate students get to do all kinds of neat things. Ryan collects placentas (afterbirth) of cows to study. I knew of some students who had to milk pigs. My friend, Chris, dissected eyes from cattle. We had a student who collected dead bobcats and mountain lions to study for disease. There was the student that studied skunk intestines. My boss exercised sheep and calves on treadmills. My office often smells like pig poop because grad students are drying poop samples. I can imagine those are fun to collect.



A club activity, Ag Olympics. Students compete in Ag related events.

Graduate students work insane hours for lousy pay and have to pay for classes, books, and supplies. They are usually far from home and loved ones. Grad students usually help teach classes and labs for undergraduates. They also tutor undergrads and, as they become more experienced, they serve as mentors for the younger grad students. Graduate students do a big portion of the work in university research. Most of the advances in Animal Science research can probably be attributed to some poor, bleary-eyed grad student who worked endless days and nights to get it done. Students just like Ryan.



A student in lab learning to make sausage.

I loved grad school. I wouldn't trade those experiences for anything, but there is no amount of money that could convince me to do it again. **Keep at it Ryan! It will all be worth it in the end.**



On a field trip to a Tyson meat plant. That's me on the far right.



# **Agricultural Career Fair: Advancing Food, Family, Business and the Environment**

**Thursday, October 17, 2013**

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**ARKANSAS UNION VERIZON BALLROOM**

The University of Arkansas Agricultural Career Fair: Advancing Food, Family, Business and the Environment offers cost-effective and time-efficient recruiting for full-time, part-time or internship positions. This fair is for all **Bumpers College Students** who are seeking employment opportunities.

**Employers** are encouraged to register and attend this fair to meet and network with Bumpers College students' whose majors represent 13 inter-related majors and 21 minors. This venue also provides companies branding opportunities on a campus with over 23,000 students representing more than 95 majors and 150 graduate degree programs. The registration deadline to attend this fair is **October 8th**. The University of Arkansas Agricultural Career Fair: Advancing Food, Family, Business and the Environment offers cost-effective and time-efficient recruiting for full-time, part-time or internship positions. This fair is for all U of A Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences students who are seeking employment opportunities.

**Dale Bumpers students**, whether you are looking for a full-time position, part-time or an internship, you will find great opportunities at this fair to connect with prospective employers seeking students with your majors. Also attend this fair to expand your network, polish your interview skills, learn industry information, and gather information about companies. **Business Casual is required to attend.**

★ [Attend to Win: Click Here for More Information about Prizes](#)

## **STUDENT INFO**

[SEE WHO'S COMING TO THE CAREER FAIR](#)  
[MAKING CAREER FAIRS WORK FOR YOU](#)  
WATCH VIDEO ON [HOW TO PREPARE FOR](#)  
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## **EMPLOYERS INFO**

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